

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

June 1, 2004

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Osborne.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter (late), O’Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

Absent: Alderman Guinta

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Kathy Hamel, 823 Elm Street, stated:

I would like to talk about the downtown parking. I know you’re tired of hearing it and I am extremely frustrated over the parking situation that we have. I don’t know what other people are experiencing and I have to go by my business. You have never heard from me until recently in the entire eight years that I’ve been downtown, so I’m not normally a complainer. And it’s become crisis level just to read one letter from you. Somebody that came in recently, she’s been a very longtime customer. “I’ve been a customer with Heart N Hand for quite some time and find that parking has become impossible. I like to come by during the week and usually turn around and go back home because there is no place to park. I look forward to spending time.... Numerous times I’ve come and had to go back.” If I brought you every comment that I get, you would be stunned and this is not just for with Heart N Hand, this is a downtown that we’re trying to build up. It’s a downtown that I’ve been

dedicated to for eight years, even when things were bad. So we need to do something. I don't know what the answer is, I will tell you from my experience that one of the biggest problems is workers move from spot to spot on Elm all day long. It used to be that they had to get off at least the block, which gave some movement because there's a lot of one-way spots. Saturday I go to work at 9:30 in the morning and all of the spots on Elm are taken on my block. That is extremely not okay. I don't know what the answer is and I know that we have the parking things, I do pay. How do you expect my customers who may want to come in for a half hour or Mary's customers or someone else's customers for a half hour to park in a garage two or three blocks away when workers are downtown for eight hours and would rather park out front moving their car every two hours. It just doesn't make sense.

Theresa Chabot, 239 Notre Dame Avenue, stated:

The reason I'm here I just found a little while ago that I could come to this meeting and I'm certainly against anything or any money that's given to clinics for teenagers and I know what those clinics mean. You know, we're playing God. We think we're helping our children by giving them any information of sex from way back. What are we doing to tell them what life is about. We're made in God's image. Aren't we? We're made in God's image and what are we doing, we're throwing in the towel. We want God to help bless our country and how can we expect to bless us when we are for abortion and we're making laws. Same sex marriage and all of that. But you know we're saying to God that we can do things better than him and for that that's the reason I'm here.

Jessica Kinsey, 95 Cedar Street, stated:

I'm with Art Builds Community and I have some handouts. I'm not here to complain I'm here to invite you to something. The Art Builds Community has created a familiarization tour especially for you our City leaders and decision makers. It will be held on June 10th beginning at 4 o'clock and we will be picking you up here so you don't need to move your cars or figure out parking situations. We are asking that everyone RSVP to Art Builds Community, there's a number located at the bottom of the sheet that is being handed out and we are limited to 35 riders for that evening event. We have wonderful food and drink for you throughout the evening and we're going to be seeing a little sampling of our cultural highlights and most importantly learning about the economic impact that each of these organizations has on our community at large and we hope that you all can attend.

George D'Orazio, 13½ Parker Avenue, stated:

I'm here this evening because I'm upset that the Teen Health Clinic is going to be getting an \$8,000 grant, I guess I'd call it. I'm not opposed to teenagers getting help, however, the Teen Health Clinic, one of the things that it's doing is giving birth control without the consent of parents and even you don't agree with me that a child begins at the time of conception, you can at least respect my ability as a parent to help my own children and the Teen Health Clinic and other groups like this have for a number of years now been dispensing the kind of, they call it medication, but whether they are abortifacients or birth

control pills, things that really have a tremendous on a young person who isn't ready yet for the full consequences of their sexuality. And when you say parents don't have to know about this, that's not right. Some parents wouldn't object and that's fine, but there are many of us who understand that sexuality is very fundamental and that it's something that if not properly understood could have tremendous bad consequences in people's lives. So I'm going to be presenting these petitions.

Stephen Abbott, 239 Harrison Street, stated:

Before I make the comments I wanted to make I just wanted to say that I've seen the model and the plans for the Hands Across the Merrimack bridge project, and I think it's truly beautiful, I think it's very creative and I hope it gets built. It will be a real addition to the City, because it evokes our heritage. I noticed in the *Union Leader* last Wednesday there was an article called "Aldermen Okay \$15.6 Million For Projects" and it said that this Board gave tentative approval for \$1 million for the bridge project and that was the day of the vote I believe or the day after the vote on SB302 and you voted even as you feared it would take \$4.5 million from the City budget and as I said I'd love to see that bridge built, but if it has to wait another year to fill that spending gap or to keep gaining private funding, I think the taxpayers will understand. This Board also gave tentative approve, I read, for \$4.4 million in expedited funds for a stadium renovation project at Memorial High School. That's an interesting figure, \$4.4 million. This may be a completely legitimate project, it may really be needed, but as painful as it may be to the kids who might be looking forward to it, I think that should be delayed by this Board for a year to help fill that budget hole. The time is just really bad. One final thing, your Superintendent said passing SB302 after the School District budget was like putting the cart before the horse. I just wish you hadn't passed the School budget the day before SB302 passed. That really was like putting the cart before the horse, I think.

Robin Comstock, President, Manchester Chamber of Commerce, stated:

If I may I'd like to introduce you to, and forgive me for not doing it sooner, to Chris Williams who is the new Vice President of Economic Development and Advocacy and it could provide you with support and serve as a liaison to this issue and others at the Chamber. So I'm here tonight on tattoo parlors. I won't take a lot of time this evening, but I do want to stress a couple of points in regard to the proposed tattoo parlor ordinance that this Board will be discussing later on the course of this meeting. First, thank you for honoring Alderman Guinta's request at last month's meetings that this issue be tabled so that interested parties could explore alternative options to the proposed ordinance. The Chamber of Commerce organized and hosted a meeting last week that was attended by a variety of people and organizations within the City. Aldermen, Manchester Development Corporation, Intown Manchester, the Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Mayor's office, and the Chamber have all come together to build a consensus around what we believe is a fair ordinance. This ordinance that we proposed will allow tattoo parlors both in the CDB and in the B-2 districts. The Chamber as well as other interested parties have always shared a concern that

condensing all of the tattoo parlors into one part of the City would have a detrimental affect on a particular district. The ordinance we proposed tonight will alleviate that concern by dispersing tattoo parlors across the City and allowing natural market forces to regulate the industry rather than legislation. Please keep in mind that whether or not you support the ordinance on the table or our proposed ordinance tonight is simply about voting to allow the general public to discuss which options it favors. As we understand it, protocol allows the Board to narrow the scope of an ordinance after a public hearing, but not to expand it. By voting to send our proposed ordinance to the public hearing you will allow the public to discuss a wider array of options for placing tattoo parlors in the City. However, if you vote for the ordinance on the table, the public will be restricted to only discussing the idea of placing parlors in the CBD, which is a rather limited debate. Therefore, in the interest of addressing this methodically and fairly, we request that you vote to send our proposed ordinance to a public hearing instead of the ordinance currently on the table.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, Ward 7, stated:

I have something for the record and the Chairman of the Board, Alderman Shea. First thing I want to talk about some of you may know that there's a hearing tomorrow on the Old Wellington Road property for the affordable housing up there. If you do a little checking, the public notice says they're going to have a hearing for \$6.8 million for bonding. Total cost of the project is actually going to be just over \$10 million. There's a subordinate loan of \$1.5 from New Hampshire Housing. The City is also kicking in a \$1 million and if you remember, the developer and Manchester Housing Authority bid \$1.2 million on that property. To me, if we're giving \$1 million and going to bond it, it sounds like we're buying our own property. Some of you guys better go to that hearing at New Hampshire Housing that's already on Constitution Drive in Bedford tomorrow or maybe you should ask a lot more questions before you vote on something. The other thing concerns Singer Park, Alderman Shea which you're going to be getting and for the record. There's a couple over in Brookline, New Hampshire that want to build a sports dome, 27,000 square feet with their own money. I talked to the lady, \$1.2 million. They are modeling it after the sports dome up in York, Maine. You might want to take a bus trip over there and check that one out. I think if the City did something with a sports dome, along this line, rather than just recreating Singer field up at Derryfield Park, you'd have a facility that you could use year round. There's a couple of pages in here talking about the buildings. The one that they just completed in Gorham, Maine is 185 feet by 267 feet long. You could get several soccer fields, volleyball courts, the schools could practice baseball in there pre-season, and you could use it year round. If you don't reconstruct the Singer Park this year and wait until next year, do something positive for the City for a change. Do something that you can use year round and the residents of Manchester can get a good use out of it. I hope you give it some serious consideration.

Jeff Kassel, 22 Appleton Street, stated:

I've been reading the papers this week. It seems like I've been here for quite a few years in this chamber complaining about the same thing. I represent a lot of people and Concerned Taxpayers, an organization here in Manchester, and a lot of people in this City who are property owners and live in a house in this town are concerned taxpayers. They are I think the vast silent majority in this City and some pretty scary numbers have been appearing the newspapers. I recently read an article by Riley Yates. A lot of Aldermen were quoted in that article. Numbers like eight or ten percent tax increases, this is very frightening to a lot of people, It's pretty frightening to me because I project these increases out over the next ten years I realize that I won't be able to afford to live in this town and a lot of other people won't either. Last time I was followed by a lady from Concerned Taxpayers, a lady named Judy Merdentz and she gave kind of a quiet but impressive speech about her own personal circumstances and taxes, and I noticed that right after she spoke Alderman Shea and Alderman Lopez came over to her and tried to comfort her and told her that she might be able to receive a discount on her taxes if she qualified and I couldn't help realizing that if she got a discount and other people got a discount, that my taxes would have to go up. A lot of people's taxes would have to go up. I urge you to cut this budget. I urge you to slash it and become tax hawk because that's what the City wants.

Angel Ryan, 180 Bowman Street, stated:

I've been a resident for nine years and I'm speaking to you as a mother of nine and a grandmother of almost ten. I too oppose this Teen Health Clinic. I don't feel people should give out contraceptives to children, especially without parental consent. I feel it's more important to stress family values and morals with children and to show them how important and sacred life is.

Kathleen Souza, 628 Belmont Street, stated:

I'm on the same topic as the previous speaker. I'm a State Rep from Hillsborough 51 and I've had a lot of people come and ask me about the article they saw in the *Union Leader* about ten days to two weeks ago regarding a group of parents who were petitioning the Aldermen to remove the \$8,000 for a Teen Health Clinic because the contraceptive abortifacients that are being given out without parental knowledge. So I'm here on behalf of those parents to ask that you please do not fund this clinic. That we use the money for more positive things.

Steve Vaillancourt, 161 Faith Lane, stated:

I am a State Representative from Ward 8 and in the three years that I have been absent from your hallowed chambers, I think I've only come to speak before you once. That's how I value this as a privilege not to be abused. Some crazy things are happening at the State and County level and maybe even here in the City of Manchester. At the State level as you know, we have a bill which deprives Manchester of anywhere from \$4 to \$7 million,

depending on who is counting, and then we have the bill absolutely illegally enrolled by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House's delegate. It is sad. Then we have the County delegation; you talk about your increases, over at the court house they just increased the salary for County Treasurer, County Commissioners, County elected officials by about ten percent, and most of them very conservative people who would blast you for a similar increase, ten percent. And of course the Chairman of the Hillsborough County Delegation twice tried to have the meeting, that would be Gail Barry, State Rep from Ward 9, illegally, by not having a quorum present. I think if you're going to an elected official, you should at least obey the law. Here at the local level, I know most of you are concerned with the school funding issue and I have in my hand, right here, what a lot of you are undoubtedly dying to see. Some of you even saw it because I know Your Honor and many of you were up in Concord for the debate last week at the State House. That brings me to my point. Why are you not seeing this on MCTV? The Manchester Delegation unanimously petitioned Dr. Grace Sullivan to run these on MCTV government access channel 22. Instead of complying with that urge, she stonewalled, came up with excuses after excuse, including her staff couldn't afford the time to go up there. Not true. These tapes are supplied by the Speakers office. Profanity she said. Not true. There is no profanity by the House. Excuse after excuse. Instead of doing the right thing for this community, this woman continues to mismanage MCTV and deal in her own petulant rages. I urge you to ask her yourselves to put on State House sessions on MCTV.

Mayor Baines stated thank you for your comments and also thank you for your eloquent defense of Manchester during those deliberations as well.

Barbara Hagan, 154 Winter Street, State Representative, Hillsborough District 50, Wards 2, 3, 10 and 11, stated:

I don't know whether there would be a consensus Your Honor on that profanity in the House and to whether or not it really exists. I think there are days when it probably would be voted that there's a lot more profanity up there then we would like to admit to. We have a spending problem and when we take taxpayer's money for programs that are not mandated in law, we have to really think about who is supplying that money and when the money goes for programs that people conscientiously object to, we have a profound constitutional issue. I too have been asked by many of the people that I represent in Wards 2, 3, 10 and 11 to appeal to you on the Teen Clinic Issue. Many of us belong to organizations, charitable organizations that reach out to teens, to the elderly, to the youth, coach soccer teams. These particular charities raise their own money. The money is raised by people who want to support that type of activity. It doesn't come out of tax dollars and I would ask you to consider that in your deliberations regarding the teen clinic and I thank you again for your time.

Betty Brouder, 3 Newfane Road, Bedford, stated:

I'm speaking out of concern for the Hillsborough county area. I represent the grassroots concerns of about 160 people who have signed the petition that George Girasio submitted. These people do not want to fund Teen Health Clinic because it undermines the family values and parental rights. I've been in front of the clinic, I've talked with a lot of youth there, they are being given a lot of misinformation about the so called contraceptives that they're dispensing, they're being told that the contraceptives do not kill innocent human life when in fact if they don't prevent ovulation they do kill these babies before they attach to the uterine wall. Also, we're very concerned about the fabric of our community because promiscuity is being spread, STD's are on the rise, condoms do not prevent the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases and that's been verified by a National Institute of Health study that was done in the year 2000. So kids are being given misinformation and this clinic is basically a school sex clinic. It works through the schools, it is using the schools as a vast referral pool and is harming our community and I urge you please rescind the \$8,000 that has been approved. Thank you for your consideration.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Porter, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk